

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

New Vital Statistics Laws

Beginning with 1940, all birth certificates must provide information relative to the prenatal examination for syphilis, including period of gestation in months and weeks at which examination was made, and if examination was not made, including the reasons for not making it; providing, however, that the results of such examination shall not be included on the certificate nor made public in any manner. This law, Chapter 385, Acts of 1939, amends section 10200 of the Health and Safety Code.

Chapter 450, Acts of 1939, amends sections 10600 of the Health and Safety Code, to permit judicial establishment of fact of birth, death or marriage, when the record has been lost or destroyed, as well as when no record was made.

Chapter 1120, Acts of 1939, adds section 10600.5 to the Health and Safety Code, which makes provision for the establishment of fact of birth, death or marriage for an individual who was born or married outside of California, or for persons domiciled in this state who died outside of California and the event was not registered in the state or country in which the event occurred, or certified copy of such record is not obtainable, by petitioning the Superior Court of the county in which such individual lives, or if the person has died in the county in which he was domiciled at the date of his death, an order judicially establishing the fact of the birth,

death or marriage may be issued, if the court is satisfied that the event occurred as claimed and if proper proofs are adduced at the hearing.

Chapter 101, Acts of 1939, amends sections of the Health and Safety Code and provides that the body of an individual, dead of an infectious or communicable disease, shall not be removed without first securing permission of the local health officer. Heretofore, the law required the issuance of a removal permit before such body could be taken from the place where the death occurred. The requirement that the informant's signature be placed upon the death certificate is also removed.

Chapter 642, Acts of 1939, adds section 7412 to the Health and Safety Code and provides that if any cemetery is located in more than one vital statistics registration district, the registrar of either district may issue a burial permit, which may be returned to the registrar of the district within which the interment occurred and filed without charge.

Chapter 126, Acts of 1939, amends sections of the Health and Safety Code to remove the requirement that a permit from the local health officer to embalm the body of a person dead from an unknown cause must be in writing. It prohibits the use of embalming fluid that contains heavy mineral or metallic substances or less than ten per cent of formaldehyde gas. It prohibits any transportation of bodies of persons dead from specified diseases without

permit from the State Department of Public Health, rather than prohibiting such transportation for a distance of more than 25 miles. Rules relative to caskets and transportation cases for bodies of persons dead from certain diseases are revised.

EPILEPSY A REPORTABLE DISEASE

During the horse and buggy days the epileptic was injured less frequently than today, and when seized with a convulsion was less apt to involve the lives of others. Today, in our mechanized world, the occupation of one subject to attacks of loss of consciousness should be restricted for the protection of himself and the public safety. Many epileptics conceal the existence of their malady on application for a driver's license. Many are driving automobiles on our highways today. They gamble not only with their own lives but with the lives of others as well.

A state law became effective September 19th requiring physicians to report cases of epilepsy to the local health department. These reports are to be forwarded to the State Department of Public Health to be made available to the State Motor Vehicle Department. This is a most commendable measure towards making our highways safer for all.—*C. R. Wylie, M.D., Health Officer, Ventura County.*

SCHOOL LUNCHEONS

Chapter 183, Acts of 1939, adds sections 1.102-1.106 to the School Code, authorizing governing boards of school districts to provide breakfasts and lunches for undernourished pupils, and to levy a tax for the purpose in excess of maximum for the district. The amendment also authorizes the use for this purpose of money available in state, city, county, or city and county funds for the relief of indigents.

SCHOOL NURSING ON CONTRACT

The School Code was amended at the last session of the Legislature to permit the county superintendent of schools to contract with the county health department for services in health supervision in the public schools. Under rules established by the superintendent, employees of the county health departments who perform duties under such contracts must have health and development permits issued by the State Department of Education.

The new act also permits the county superintendent of schools to employ nurses in the elementary districts which are under his supervision and which do not now employ nurses.

SYPHILIS CONTROL IN INDUSTRY

The Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, Doctor Thomas Parran, says that syphilis is now a major hazard to health and efficiency, and that an effort to improve industrial hygiene must include more attention to syphilis control among workers. Doctor Parran asks each industry to take responsibility for knowing its own problem, for making treatment available, and continuing to give employment to employees who seek a cure.

The program recommended by the U. S. Public Health Service involves case finding, treatment and education. The plan must be carried out on a cooperative and impartial basis in order to be successful.

To discharge employees with positive cases of syphilis denies them the right of an income, places an undue burden upon them, the community and the nation. The worker suffering from syphilis needs an income to pay for the necessary treatment and also needs the friendly advice and counsel of the industry's physician. Without such requisites, he, together with the members of his family, may become a public charge.

The control of syphilis in industry is important, not only because of the large numbers of persons involved and because of its function, but because the opinions and actions of workers and management cooperatively working together will influence greater direction and progress of the campaign in every community.

Following is an outline of the syphilis control program in industry, as recommended by the U. S. Public Health Service:

1. Routine blood tests should be made on all employees at times of re-examination.
2. Routine blood tests should be made on all applicants for employment.
3. Positive cases, if noninfectious, should be kept in employment and also accepted for work provided they agree to take the necessary treatment for syphilis. Those refusing treatment must be referred to the local health departments.
4. All positive cases of syphilis found by blood testing should be referred to the family physician for confirmation of the diagnosis and for treatment of the disease. If the worker is unable to pay for this service, he should be referred to clinics where diagnosis and treatment are available.
5. Strict confidence must be maintained between the plant physician and the worker regarding his condition.

6. Cases should be followed up by the plant physician and his staff to assure that adequate treatment is being received. If facilities are available, health departments may assist in the follow-up of cases.
7. An educational program should be developed which will teach the employees the facts about venereal diseases, how they are contracted, how they are spread, and how they may be cured. The educational program should include information concerning prophylaxis.

USE OF THALLIUM RESTRICTED

Thallium, an economic poison used in the control of field rodents, has been the cause of several deaths, in California, among human beings who have consumed grain treated with the poison. The last Legislature amended section 1066 of the Agricultural Code, making it unlawful to sell or possess within California any thallium salts or preparations thereof, unless for sale to and for official use for pest control by federal, state or county officers or employees under their immediate supervision, or for sale to and for use by licensed physicians, surgeons, pharmacists, or veterinarians in connection with their respective professions, or for sale to and for use by a registrant solely in the manufacture of poisons for export outside of the state and which products are so exported.

NURSES LEAVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Bureau of Registration of Nurses, organized in 1913, and since that time, a component part of the organization of the California State Department of Public Health, on September 19th was dissolved by statute. In its stead was created a Board of Nurse Examiners within the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards. The staff of the Bureau of Registration of Nurses was taken over by the new organization.

For more than twenty-five years, the nurses of California had looked to the medical profession of the state for guidance and help in the maintenance of educational standards. It is hoped that under the sponsorship and direction of nurses themselves, equally high standards may be maintained without loss of prestige or confidence in the essential attributes of nursing.

Health is the greatest of all possessions; a pale cobbler is better than a sick king.—Bickerstaff.

NEW LAWS PERTAINING TO GARBAGE AND GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Chapter 547, Acts of 1939, defines garbage as:

- A. Animal, fruit and vegetable refuse
- B. Offal
- C. Leaves and cuttings, trimmings from trees, shrubs and grass
- D. Inorganic refuse and rubbish
- E. Anything thrown away as worthless.

Chapter 304, Acts of 1939, permits sanitary districts to maintain garbage dumps and garbage disposal systems. It also permits districts to acquire property for ingress and egress to and from other property of the district.

Chapter 535, Acts of 1939, amends section 4475 of the Health and Safety Code to prohibit the deposit of garbage and refuse on public parks and private property, upon which the public has easement or license, and private property where the owner does not consent.

Chapter 355, Acts of 1939, amends section 374B of the Penal Code, relative to the disposal of carcasses of dead animals and offal from slaughter pens and other places, to include garbage, which is defined as trash, refuse, or any other offensive matter. It prohibits placing such material on public or private property, similar to the provisions of Chapter 535.

Chapter 303, Acts of 1939, permits sanitary districts to collect waste and garbage, and Chapter 304, Acts of 1939, amends the Health and Safety Code to define garbage, to permit sanitary districts to operate garbage dumps, as well as sewage disposal systems upon locations approved by the county health officer. If such location is within 2 miles of any city, the consent of the governing body of such city shall first be secured.

LAUNDRY FROM HOSPITALS

Upon enactment of the new Health and Safety Code, the old law that prohibited public laundries from receiving articles from hospitals, pest houses, or sanatoria where communicable diseases are treated, or from an undertaking establishment or morgue, was repealed.

So many of us know what we are against, but not what we are for—what we disbelieve, not what we believe. A negative life easily becomes neutral and futile.—Rev. Joseph F. Newton, D.D., Rector of Episcopal Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany, Philadelphia.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending
October 21, 1939

Chickenpox

112 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 1, Oakland 3, Butte County 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 9, Eureka 1, Imperial 2, Inyo County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 5, Bell 2, Madera County 5, Chowchilla 1, Marin County 1, Monterey County 1, Monterey 2, Orange County 14, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 20, San Joaquin County 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Clara County 1, Watsonville 1, Siskiyou County 4, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 1, Turlock 1, Lindsay 2, Ventura County 2, Oxnard 2, Yolo County 1, Winters 2, Yuba County 1.

Diphtheria

26 cases: Contra Costa County 1, Fortuna 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 4, Hawthorne 1, Madera County 4, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Elsinore 5, Colton 1, San Diego County 2, San Francisco 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Paula 1.

German Measles

16 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno 1, Tehachapi 1, Los Angeles County 1, Alhambra 2, Burbank 1, Los Angeles 2, Pasadena 1, Corona 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Clara County 1.

Influenza

18 cases: Oakland 5, Los Angeles County 3, Claremont 1, Los Angeles 7, Santa Monica 1, San Francisco 1.

Malaria

19 cases: Kern County 4, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento County 1, North Sacramento 2, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 3, Yuba County 5, California 2.*

Measles

107 cases: El Dorado County 4, Fresno County 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 9, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 4, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, Riverside County 2, Perris 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 4, San Diego 57, San Francisco 7, Stockton 3, Burlingame 1, Siskiyou County 1, Tulare County 1, Santa Paula 1.

Mumps

164 cases: Alameda County 5, Berkeley 4, Oakland 6, Butte County 1, Fresno County 2, Eureka 1, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 14, Glendale 1, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 4, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 3, Whittier 1, Madera County 2, Merced 1, Mono County 1, Anaheim 1, Laguna Beach 1, Banning 6, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 23, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 14, San Jose 1, Sunnyvale 2, Siskiyou County 1, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Oakdale 3, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 2, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1, Davis 9, Montebello 2, San Bernardino 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

20 cases: Berkeley 1, Emeryville 1, Oakland 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 5, Montebello 1, Monterey County 1, Sacramento 2, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 1.

Scarlet Fever

129 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 3, Emeryville 1, Oakland 2, Piedmont 1, Butte County 1, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 9, Eureka 2, Holtville 1, Imperial 2, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 17, Alhambra 1, Culver City 1, El Monte 1, Hermosa 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 23, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 1, Marin County 1, Fort Bragg 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 2, Orange County 2, Orange 1, La Habra 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 1, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Shasta County 1, Stanislaus County 4, Turlock 1, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 1, Tuolumne County 2, Ventura County 1.

Smallpox

5 cases: San Joaquin County 4, Yuba County 1.

Typhoid Fever

12 cases: Calexico 1, El Centro 1, Modoc County 1, Alturas 3, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 1, California 2.*

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Whooping Cough

112 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 2, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 10, Azusa 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 15, Pasadena 3, Santa Monica 2, San Rafael 1, Merced County 3, Orange County 3, Fullerton 8, Orange 5, Santa Ana 2, Riverside County 3, Banning 1, Corona 1, Riverside 1, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 2, San Francisco 5, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara 4, San Jose 3, Sonoma County 8, Petaluma 7, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 2, Exeter 3, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Sacramento County 1, San Diego 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Sanger 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

12 cases: Alameda County 1, Lassen County 4, Los Angeles County 1, Mendocino County 1, Merced County 1, Menlo Park 1, Redding 1, Sonoma County 1, Ventura County 1.

Leprosy

1 case: San Joaquin County.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

1 case: Sonoma County.

Pellagra

1 case: Glendale.

Poliomyelitis

34 cases: Oakland 3, Fresno County 1, Kern County 6, Los Angeles County 3, Beverly Hills 1, Los Angeles 4, Santa Monica 1, Salinas 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3, Santa Clara County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 1, Tulare County 2, Visalia 1, Fillmore 1.

Tetanus

1 case: Los Angeles.

Trachoma

4 cases: Fresno County 1, Indio 2, San Diego County 1.

Dengue

1 case: California.*

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Madera County 1, Riverside 1.

Paratyphoid Fever

4 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 3.

Typhus Fever

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, California 1.*

Jaundice (Epidemic)

9 cases: Calaveras County 1, Lassen County 4, Shasta County 4.

Food Poisoning

24 cases: Martinez 5, San Francisco 15, Visalia 4.

Undulant Fever

6 cases: Martinez 1, Los Angeles County 1, Azusa 1, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Oceanside 1.

Coccidioid Granuloma

3 cases: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Sacramento 1.

Septic Sore Throat

1 case: Yolo County.

Rabies (Animal)

7 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Arcadia 1, Los Angeles 1, Bell 1, San Diego 1, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 1.

In a democracy society must recognize that the individual has rights which are guaranteed, and the individual must recognize that he has responsibilities which are not to be evaded.—*Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, Chancellor of New York University.*